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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Attempts in Verse, by John Jones, an old Servant: with some Account of the Writer, written by himself; and an Introductory Essay on the Lives and Works of our uneducated Poets. By Robert Southey, Esq., Poet Laureate. 8vo. pp. 332. London, J. Murray.

THIS title-page certainly conveys an erroneous idea of the benevolent design of the Poet Laureate. His part of the volume can hardly be called an essay, &c. on our illiterate poets, though it is a pleasing biography of some of them, with a very few remarks upon their performances. Of John Jones, its chief character, we learn that he has been in service from his boyhood, and is now butler to a respectable family near Harrogate, where, about three years ago, he had the good fortune to attract the attention of Mr. Southey, in consequence of addressing a letter to that gentleman, requesting his opinion of his poetical productions. Struck with the humility and good sense with which this application was made, yet declaring against it as a precedent, Mr. Southey not only took the worthy butler by the hand, and got him a long list of subscribers, but, by furnishing these memoirs of a number of uneducated bards of the same class, has linked his name to a volume of considerable interest in the annals of our poetical literature.

In Jones's letter to the laureate, he enclosed a copy of verses to "the red-breast," of which the latter thinks more highly than we do; though we rejoice in the results to which they led, amid the monotony of Harrogate, and the nauseous tastes of its Helicon. No observer of nature could ever speak of this fierce and predatory feathered hero in these words:

"Thy friendly heart, thy nature mild,
Thy meekness and docility,
Crawl to the love of man and child,
And win thine own felicity."

for the nature of our dear little dashing robin is just the reverse. Southey, however, was in the humour to be pleased; and every thing, like the bird's breast, was rose-coloured; which remark brings us to his introduction. Here, he playfully tells us:

"Sir Joseph Banks used pleasantly to complain that tortoise-shell tom-cats were the plague of his life, because every ignorant man or woman who happened to possess one, favoured him with the first offer of it, at fifty, or perhaps an hundred guineas below what, upon the faith of vulgar opinion, they believed to be the established price of so great a curiosity. For this flattering preference Sir Joseph was indebted to the high rank in the scientific world which he so deservedly held and filled so worthily: it was a tribute to his station and his character. Authors, and especially poets, who send their works for my perusal and opinion and advice thereon, have been as much the plague of my life as the tom-tortoise-shells were of his. Mr. George Colman has no sinecure in his office of licenser for the stage; alas! the office which has thus been thrust

upon me is a sine-salary, and the business itself is of a more ungracious kind."

We have been somewhat amused at the little escape of vanity in this passage; the implied comparison with one who deservedly held such high rank in the scientific world is not amiss. But, in truth, a Southey is worth ten Banks's; and it is only the self-complacency of the paragraph which is worthy of a simile: had it come from any other quarter, it would not have been even a compliment. With regard to the contrast with the facetious licenser for the stage, we are really of opinion that both he and the laureate are amply paid for what they do. We would engage, in these times of retrenchment and economy, to procure one person to fulfil the duties of the two, and equally well, at half-price. But let that pass. In answer to Jones, the author states:

"That instead of returning a discouraging reply, and thus preventing any farther trouble to myself, I told my humble applicant he might send me his book, warning him, however, against indulging in any expectation that such poems would be found generally acceptable in these days; the time for them was gone by, and whether the public had grown wiser in these matters or not, it had certainly become less tolerant and less charitable."

Is this not an Irish reason for afterwards publishing these very poems, and a whole volume besides of similar matter? Still the kind intention remains the same, and is entitled to the same approbation; we simply object to looking one way and rowing another, of which we have several instances in these pages. For example, the author thus describes his motives—

"If I could render some little service to a man of more than ordinary worth (for such, upon the best testimony, Mr. Jones appeared to be), it would be something not to be repented of, even though I should fail in the hope (which failure, however, I did not apprehend) of affording some gratification to 'gentle readers;' for readers there still are, who, having escaped the epidemic disease of criticism, are willing to be pleased, and grateful to those from whose writings they derive amusement or instruction."

Why Mr. Southey, himself a professional critic, and often a severe and caustic one, should affect to run down the craft, and "do the amiable" to gentle readers on this particular occasion, we cannot explain. It seems to us to be an affectation of superiority, which even his great abilities, his vast fund of acquired knowledge, his admirable facility and grace of style, and his many extraordinary qualifications, do not justify. There are—take the world as it goes—few Southey's; but, if there were fewer, not one of the best of them (if there can be a best among equalities) has a right to say, when inclined to be critical, "I am Sir Oracle, when I speak, let no dog bark;" and when he chooses to play the piano of a literary cicerone, to run down the congeners of his other character. Even where we agree with him in sentiment

(if it be possible to make it distinctly out), we must defend ourselves from a communion in this respect:

"Bad poetry—(if it be harmless in its intent and tendency)—can do no harm, unless it passes for good, becomes fashionable, and so tends to deprave still further a vitiated public taste, and still further to debase a corrupted language. Bad criticism is a much worse thing, because a much more injurious one, both to the self-satisfied writer and the assentient reader; not to mention, that without the assistance of bad criticism, bad poetry would but seldom make its way.* The mediocres have long been a numerous and an increasing race, and they must necessarily multiply with the progress of civilisation. But it would be difficult to say wherefore it should be treated as an offence against the public, to publish verses which no one is obliged either to purchase or to read. Booksellers are not likely to speculate at their own cost in such wares; there is a direct gain to other branches of trade; employment is given where it is wanted; and if pecuniary loss be a matter of indifference to the author, there is then no injury to himself, and he could not have indulged himself in a more innocent folly, if folly it should deserve to be called. But if he is a good and amiable man, he will be both the better and the happier for writing verses. 'Poetry,' says Landor, 'opens many sources of tenderness, that lie for ever in the rock without it.'"

To all this we most heartily subscribe; but, continues Mr. S.:

"If, indeed, a poet feels in himself a constant craving for reputation, and a desire of depreciating those who have been more successful than himself,—if he looks upon them as his competitors and rivals, not as his brethren in the art,—then verily it is unfortunate for such a man that he possesses the talent of versifying. And in that case he will soon betake himself to criticism, as a more congenial calling; for bad poets become malevolent critics, just as weak wine turns to vinegar."

Excepting that this is not pure grammar, we would have given our ears to have written it. We fancy Mr. Southey in Westmoreland, at Harrogate, and in divers delightful retirements, unacquainted with the little reviewing, criticising, envying, backbiting circles of London (the great theatre, notwithstanding); and we wonder at the accuracy of his notions. How many coxcombs and asses do we know, whose only talent is depreciation; how many critics, as cutting as new cutlery, who are but Birmingham-blunts sharpened by the failure of their own attempts. Pitt said, "I could make ten patriots in a day, by refusing presumptuous requests, and crushing unreasonable expectations." It is the same with literature as with politics (to imitate Southey in a comparison—see Sir J. Banks *passim*)—we can make a very respectable number (i. e.

* We mark this as a doubtful assertion, though Heaven forbid we should be reckoned the champions of bad criticism.—Ed. L. G.

respectable in number) of critics in any week of our existence. But the "vinegar" is as indifferent as the "wine;" and as nobody cares to drink the latter, so nobody heeds the sub-acid of the former. Let us turn to some better stuff than either,—the fine argument of the author for his adopting this individual instance of servile poetry.

"There were many, I thought, who would be pleased at seeing how much intellectual enjoyment had been attained in humble life, and in very unfavourable circumstances; and that this exercise of the mind, instead of rendering the individual discontented with his station, had conducted greatly to his happiness, and if it had not made him a good man, had contributed to keep him so. This pleasure should in itself, methought, be sufficient to content those subscribers who might kindly patronise a little volume of his verses. Moreover, I considered that as the Age of Reason had commenced, and we were advancing with quick step in the March of Intellect, Mr. Jones would in all likelihood be the last versifier of his class; something might properly be said of his predecessors, the poets in low life, who with more or less good fortune had obtained notice in their day; and here would be matter for an introductory essay, not uninteresting in itself, and contributing something towards our literary history."

The "last versifier of his class" is, as the *Quarterly Review* says, nonsense: there will be thousands yet. Imperfect civilisation, and the imperfect instruction of "the school-master," are but weak barriers against human nature; and, so long as there is any portion of the community unspoiled by bad culture, we shall have poets as genuine as John Jones. But the rest of the passage is just; a love of poetry not only never injured a living being,—it must improve and elevate. Like the sense of honour, which may plunge its inheritors sometimes into situations which cannot be prudently defended; if it lead to a few unessential follies, it preserves the highest and the best of feelings; and what noble soul would not rather be pitted (that is the word) for a negligence injurious to none but its owner, than be doomed to endure the sycophancy and adulation paid to the most fortunate of the heartless worldlings around?

After a brief introduction, the author gives us an agreeable life of Taylor the Water Poet, with specimens of his curious poems; then of Stephen Duck, James Woodhouse, John Bennet, Ann Yearsley, J. F. Bryant,—all untaught; and, if we may say so without heresy, unreadable versifiers. Imitation is the bane of the mass; and, after all, imitation is the essence of John Jones. What, under other circumstances, the good feelings and natural talents of these persons might have made them, is an inquiry we cannot solve; but as they really existed, there is nothing beyond the friendly plaudits of their day required, and even Mr. Southey may indite fifty volumes before he can repopularise them. Taylor was the most remarkable of them all; and the partial revival of the best of his poetry offers a pleasant relaxation.

Before offering two or three selections from John Jones, we should notice that Mr. Southey affords us the following agreeable promise:—

"I do not introduce Robert Bloomfield here, because his poems are worthy of preservation separately, and in general collections; and because it is my intention one day to manifest at more length my respect for one whose talents were of no common standard, and whose cha-

acter was in all respects exemplary. It is little to the credit of the age, that the latter days of a man whose name was at one time so deservedly popular, should have been past in poverty, and perhaps shortened by distress, that distress having been brought on by no misconduct or imprudence of his own." [Most true.]

The subjoined are the most convenient specimens we can give of Jones's compositions, which fill about 150 pages of the volume.

The Journey of Life.

"The journey of life

There are none can preface;
From all we can learn
'Tis an uncertain stage;
If short or extended,
No mortal can say,
What up-hills or down-hills
There are in the way;
Yet were all we travellers
Social inclined,
And true honest hearted,
And loving and kind;
Nor man to man scornful,
Nor man to man wrong,
How happily we might
All travel along!
But pow'r will oppress thee,
And pride pass thee by,
And folly will laugh
At a tear in thine eye;
And, should dark misfortune
Thy prospects o'ercast,
Even friendship will leave thee
Exposed to the blast;
And envy and malice
Augment thy distress;
And cunning and avarice
Thy little make less;
But strengthened by virtue,
Still bravely contend,
And hope will uphold thee,
And God be thy friend."

The Butterfly to his Love.

"Extend thy wings, my dear,
And we will round the bowers go;
The sun is warm and clear,
And inviting is the day;
The dew has left the blade,
And fragrant now the flowers blow,
And, as they blow to fade,
Let's enjoy them while we may!
We're not of mortal mould
To die, and then unfold
Our eyes in still a brighter world,
Its glories to explore;
Our life is but a summer long,
Then let us rove its sweets among,
For when the blast blows bleak and strong,
We sleep to wake no more."

"Old Mawley to his Ass" appears to us to be so eminently ridiculous as to impeach the selector's judgment,—take one verse as a ludicrous example:

"I'll will that, at my latest sigh,
Thou, too, some easy death shalt die,
And in one grave we both will lie,
My own old Ass"!!!

The allowed and sanctioned attack upon one (with all his faults and vices) of our greatest poets, is also a mistake of the editor. When Southey and Byron fought, we could enjoy the lists; but when the lion is dead, his former antagonist ought not to have permitted any inferior kick of the ass.

On the Death of Lord Byron.

"Thy destiny's cast and before thee,
And sever'd thy body and breath,
Thou'rt left, and the Muses deplore thee,
On the dark and cold desert of death.
The strains of thy lyre were enchanting,
And bore over nature control,
But yet was another chord wanting,
To attune it more sweet to the soul.
The sound that's to merit inspiring,
Its sweet introduction to love,
And cheering to worth in aspiring
To a seat with the blissful above,
Though reckless of these was thy story,
And left to more impotent lays,
The Corsair shall glow in thy glory,
The warrior shall bask in thy praise.
The tale of thy birth is the rarest,
Thy home was the proudest to have,
The fair of her soil are the fairest,
The bravest, her sons, of the brave."

The land of thy sire was forsaken,
Its worthies thy genius abused,
No pride in her virgins was taken,
Its sons were a tribute refused.
In climes now inglorious a ranger,
With passions unbridled and strong,
Love's current was turned on the stranger,
And the dissolute nursed in the song.
Had thy fame and thy country's mother
In an orbit conjunctively shone,
'T would have beam'd on illuming each other,
'Till time had extinguish'd the sun."

We are sensible that, in writing this hasty review of a book received on Thursday, we have only thrown out the crude suggestions of the moment upon passages which struck us; and therefore we beg to end by expressing our applause of the motives which led to its publication, and our candid opinion that it will afford gratification to every literary person.

The Cabinet Cyclopædia, Vol. XV. History of France, Vol. II. By Eyre Evans Crowe. 12mo. pp. 341. London, 1831. Longman and Co.; Taylor.

ON the first volume of this work appearing, we expressed our warm approbation of the judicious manner in which Mr. Crowe had begun his task: arrived, as he now is, at the most interesting period of French history, in repeating our good opinion, it were scant justice not to give that opinion weight by specimens of these pages which lead to its expression. Hitherto, beyond mere abridgments for children, and none of these, till Sir Walter Scott's delightful volumes appeared, going beyond mere dry outline, strange as it may seem to say, a history of France, brought down to the present time, has been wanting in literature. Mr. Crowe's mass of material has been immense, and we think he has shewn great industry in collecting, and great judgment in selecting. These two volumes contain a clear, bold outline of French history, interspersed with philosophical views, and many most judicious remarks. We feel convinced, as we read, of the talents of the writer; and even where we differ from his opinions, we respect them, because given in thoughtfulness and truth. In passing judgment on these pages, it ought to be remembered, that three volumes can be but a compendium. He who reads this work will have an accurate view of the course of events; he will have, as it were, a map of history before him, an excellent foundation, if he chooses to search further, and a sufficient knowledge of details and changes, if content with a general acquaintance. To the young it will be invaluable; and the reader who requires reflection as well as information, may well study these annals for the deep reflection which Mr. Crowe has evidently embodied in them. We now proceed to our extracts, endeavouring as much as possible to mingle remark and anecdote together.

"The noblesse of England, crushed by the imperious spirit of the Conqueror, were subjects, and sympathised with the mass: in France, the same class were either princes, or the followers of princes. Thus, whilst the former raised the standing bulwark of law around their privileges, including, for greater security, those of the people, the French aristocracy, aiming at nothing short of independence at one time, at all times more eager to share than to limit the royal authority, held a contempt for aught like constitutional maxim or law, and, full of recklessness and presumption, sought no other guarantees for their existence than intrigue or the sword. The blending of classes was another fortunate circumstance for England. Nobility, considered in France to extend to the whole

blood, was here confined, with the most beneficial injustice, to the eldest son. The younger branches fell into the ranks of the lower aristocracy, or lesser landholders, who again found themselves assorted with the chiefs of the bourgeois class in the lower house of parliament. Thus was solved, and apparently by chance, one of the greatest difficulties of social organization; a difficulty which convulsed the republics of Greece and Rome, and proved the great stumbling-block to upset the latter. France, less fortunate, adopted the classic division of patrician and plebeian; a line equally dangerous to draw as to efface."

The importance of trifles early began at the French court. "The absence of the Count of Soissons from Paris had been owing to a fit of discontent, occasioned by observing the *fleur-de-lis* embroidered on the gown of the duchess of Vendôme at the ceremony of the queen's coronation. The duke being but an illegitimate son of the king, the purer blood of Soissons was indignant." Even when the states-general met,—"The most important consideration in the eyes of all was evidently the respective dignity of persons and classes. The first two months were consumed in disputes of precedence, in ceremonials, in mutual compliments between the orders at first, and afterwards in mutual abuse. Miron, provost of the merchants of the city of Paris, was elected president. The address of the commons to the king was spoken by this magistrate on his knees; the deputies were clothed in simple black, whilst priests and nobles shone in gold, and an attempt of the president to wear his city robes of red and blue in a procession was looked upon as a monstrous piece of ambition."

What a moral depravity is in the following little passage!—"Epemon received a written pardon for his rebellion, but otherwise derived no advantage from it; a circumstance that caused him to be taxed with folly by his contemporaries. Disinterestedness was inconceivable to the age."

The ensuing is one of those correct views in which this author excels.

"The state maxim of that day, the usual policy of weak minds, was to trim a middle course, to hold a balance betwixt contending parties, and allow none, if possible, to be predominant. Such had been the rule of conduct of Mary of Medici, by which she perpetuated all the evils of the state, disunion, rebellion, and aristocratic independence. In this continued game of intrigue, this play of petty motives and petty forces, every head and every thought was absorbed. There was neither leisure nor elevation to afford views of foreign policy or public good. Selfish interests could be the only aim; and these were so numerous, so universal, and so complicated, that it required the capacious mind of genius to grasp, in conjunction with them, a patriotic or a public feeling. Such, however, was the mind of Richelieu: he at once towered over the heads of those dwarf statesmen of the court, and saw at a glance the evils that preyed upon France, and neutralised her power. To remove these, and elevate her to her rank amongst nations, was his instant conception. Henry IV. had effected this: he had raised the country to its just pre-eminence, and made it respected. But this he did merely by his personal character and ascendancy; he had not done it permanently: he left all the materials of dissension and insurrection in force. These were principally two, the independent noblesse, and the Huguenots. To overthrow and crush these, to tread them beneath the feet of the monarch, became Richelieu's first object; and towards this he marched through every difficulty, and shrunk from neither peril nor blood. He threw aside the trimming, the balancing policy that had hitherto prevailed, and adopted in its stead that bold, decided, straightforward line of conduct, which suits a mind conscious of superiority and confidence of force."

The character of Richelieu is well summed up.

"Richelieu was the true monarch of the reign: it was he who stamped upon it the impress of his genius and despotic character. True, he did but adopt and follow up the plans of the great Henry, in humbling the Huguenots, the noblesse, and the house of Austria; but the execution of three such enterprises in the short space of twenty years, and by a minister risen from obscurity, and obliged to act as often in despite of the monarch as with his countenance and aid, places Richelieu in the first rank of statesmen. His address, his firmness, his sagacity, were unequalled. He was naturally magnanimous, loving wealth and splendour more as the symbol of power than as the gratification of selfish vanity. The cruelty of his character is its great blemish; yet he was clement to the Huguenots, and shrunk early from the severe acts which he foresaw his plans for raising royalty would throw upon him. In the states-general for 1614, he proposed to do away with the punishment of death for political crimes, yet he soon came to be unsparing in its infliction; and the decapitation of each new victim increased in him the taste for blood, until his prelate's robe assumed the crimson dye of the murderer and the tyrant. On a superficial view, this minister's unvarying success is the most striking feature of his career; and yet all of this that his own sagacity might not produce, the extreme imprudence and feebleness of his enemies may account for. The crime of having trodden out the last spark of his country's liberties, and of having converted its monarchic government into pure despotism, is that for which Richelieu is most generally condemned. But the state of anarchy which he removed was license, not liberty. The task of reconciling private independence with public peace, civil rights with the existence of justice,—and this without precedent or tradition,—without that rooted stock on which freedom, in order to grow and bear fruit, must be grafted,—was a conception which, however familiar to our age, was utterly unknown and impracticable to that of Richelieu. With the horrors of civil war fresh in the memory of all, the general desire was for tranquillity and peace, not liberty; to which, moreover, had it been contemplated, the first necessary step was that of humbling the aristocracy. It was impossible that constitutional freedom could ever grow out of the chaos of privileges, and anarchy, and organised rebellion, that the government had to contend with. In building up her social fabric, France had in fact gone wrong, destroyed the old foundations, and rebuilt on others without solidity or system. To introduce order or add solidity to so ill-constructed a fabric was impossible; Richelieu found it necessary to raze all at once to the ground, except the central donjon of despotism, which he left standing. Had Richelieu, with all his genius and sagacity, undertaken for liberty what he achieved for royalty, his age would have rejected or misunderstood him, as it did Bacon and Galileo. He might, indeed, as a man of letters, have consigned such a political dream to the volume of an Utopia, but from action or administration he would have been soon discarded as a dreamer. Liberty

must come of the claim of the mass; of the general enlightenment, firmness, and probity. It is no great physical secret, which a single brain, finding, may announce and so establish: it is a moral truth, which, like a gem, hides its ray and its preciousness in obscurity, nor becomes refulgent, till all around it is beaming with light. Had we space to enter into the minor details of Richelieu's administration, much might be found to abstract from his merit, much to add to it. His management of the finances was grasping and unwise. France paid dearly for her glory and ascendancy. The 20,000,000 of revenue, that enabled Henry IV. to amass, were quadrupled and yet expended by Richelieu; the greater part being wasted ere it reached the treasury. Thus the proud monarchy which Richelieu founded owed to him also the canker that was destined to destroy it,—the extravagance and mismanagement of its pecuniary resources. For the sake of a certain revenue, there were 40,000 employments in finance and law left in the hereditary possession of subjects; an anomaly in a despotism scarcely credible. But the minister could not venture to attack at once the noblesse of the sword and that of the robe. He destroyed the former, and contented himself with humbling the latter."

We here subjoin the sketch of "the celebrated Father Joseph, a capuchin friar, the follower and confidant of Richelieu. We can scarcely imagine a statesman and an ambassador clothed in a monk's frock and sandals: yet such was Father Joseph, a name more or less mingled in all the intrigues of the French court, and its negotiations with others. His influence was known, and he was dreaded by the court as a kind of evil spirit,—in fact, the demon of Richelieu. Although the latter never procured for his monkish friend the cardinal's hat which he demanded, still the people called Father Joseph his 'gray eminence,' at once to distinguish him from and assimilate him to his 'red eminence' the cardinal. They had been friends from youth; congenial spirits in ambition, depth, and talent; the monk, however, sacrificed his personal elevation to that of the cardinal. Richelieu was much indebted to him: it was Joseph that roused and encouraged him, when stupefied and intimidated by the invasion of Picardy; and it was said that after his death Richelieu showed neither the same firmness nor sagacity. When Father Joseph was on his deathbed, Richelieu stood by it: it was a scene such as a novelist might love to paint. The conversation of the two ecclesiastics was still of this world; and the cardinal's last exhortation to the expiring monk was, 'Courage, Father Joseph, Brisch is ours!' a form of consolation characteristic of both."

The following is also characteristic:—"A short time before the death of the late king, his young son of five years old, the dauphin, was brought to his bedside. 'What is your name?' asked the languid monarch. 'Louis the Fourteenth,' replied the boy, who had early learned the secret of his dignity. 'Not yet, not yet,' observed his sire."

There is much truth in the next remark. Speaking of the disputes during the times of the Frondeurs:

"It may be asked why the chiefs of the judicature, and such upright lovers of liberty as Molière, were opposed to the convocation of the states-general? The answer is, that the example of England, then in the mouths and minds of many, terrified them, and made them prefer their own body as a constitutional check, to such a representative assembly as that which,

in the neighbouring kingdom, had begun with civil war, and ended in regicide and despotism. It must be owned they had some cause for fear. A revolution is bad enough; but an imitative revolution, a parody of such a great event, is to be deprecated tenfold, as incurring all the evils and few of the advantages of the convulsion."

We do not agree with Mr. Crowe in his view of the *Fronde*; when he says the French parliament were "deterred by the extravagance of the English one," we think he takes up a theory of motive not at all in accordance with the thoughtless, violent, and often purely picturesque, spirit of the age. Writers who live in a time when rights are subjects of daily discussion, and liberty not only understood, but a good deal acted upon, are very apt to judge other times as if their own lights had then existed. We must also observe, that Mr. Crowe keeps singularly out of sight that love of effect, which is so strong a principle in the French character, and which gives such a melo-dramatic tone to their annals. We utterly dissent from the ensuing declaration on arriving at the times of Louis XIV.; the writer says:

"The philosopher's eye disdains to contemplate a scene where the petty motives and acts of private life must be produced on the public stage, and where the fate of empires must be traced to causes better calculated to string together the incidents of a novel."

This is a conclusion as sweeping as it is false. Human nature is equally human nature, whether in its littleness or its elevation; and, whatever the philosopher may think, the historian can consider nothing below his notice which traces an effect to a cause, and warns one generation by the vices and follies of another. The following view of the motive which led to Louis the Fourteenth's next marriage is equally contrary to the memoirs of the times and the monarch's own character:

"Louis looked around, and, selecting no longer with the eye of passion but of reason, took for a wife the governess of his illegitimate children. This was Madame Scarron."

We doubt whether there was not rather more flattery, intrigue, &c. in the case than reason. We now proceed with our extracts.

"There is no more important political truth than that the continuance of an aristocracy is incompatible with despotism. Physical existence or prosperity is not sufficient to uphold a privileged caste. It must have, moreover, a spring of intellectual activity, that is, interests to defend, and the means of defending them. When those, or when the latter fail, then commences their decline; such was the case of the Roman nobles after Augustus, of the French after the *Fronde*. An elective, or constitutional, or a feudal monarchy, are the only forms compatible with an aristocracy. Hence, the absurdity of the French noblesse in seeking to restore the *ancien regime*; they but struggled to die over again. The principle of Jansenism lay deeper; its doctrines went to render the national church in many respects independent of Rome, and, moreover, to free the consciences of men from the arbitrary will of their spiritual confessors, by establishing a code of morals, founded indeed on Scripture, but superior to the glosses of its teachers. The Reformation was the first great attempt to shake off the authority of Rome: although successful, it was not without its blunders, its inconveniences, nay, its crimes; and, its first fervour over, there was little hope of its gaining proselytes, at least in France, where Calvinism, connected with rebellion, and spurning a hierarchy, excited disgust in the

well-born, distrust in the ignoble. Still there was a tacit protest in the French mind against Rome and its usurpations. Jansenism was the expression of this protest; but so feeble was it, so timid and involved its aim, hidden in obscurity of words, that when greater questions arose, it was swept away, and so erased, that unless closely examined, it appears to be a mere logical dispute."

Good condensed summary of the causes tending to the revolution. "The very men who lived in those days began to perceive the movement; not only the philosopher and reflecting man, but Louis XV. himself. 'The monarchy is very old,' said he, 'but it will last my time.' A selfish remark, no doubt. But could he have stopped the current of its decline? And was not his conscious powerlessness, more than his selfishness, the prompter of his thought? His subjects, his compatriots, took precisely the same view: nor class nor individual knew whither they tended; but all were dissatisfied and ill at ease. A change was necessary, it was inevitable: the acts of every one—of king, of priest, of minister, of noble, of parliament, of writer—all henceforth worked to bring about and hasten this change. The king degraded royalty by his dissoluteness, and weakened it by his profusion. The minister, turning away from the task of internal administration in disgust, directed his views abroad, and sought to gild his day of triumph by the trophies of a war, undertaken under some idle pretext of supporting the balance of power. The noble, like the monarch, degraded his order, and shewed himself pressing on the lower classes, not for any public end, but for his own private gratification. The legists defended the cause of religious liberty and their own independence, indeed, but did so selfishly and blindly. The writer flattered royalty and aristocracy, and, at this price, was allowed to attack religion, the court finding itself in opposition to the priesthood. The priesthood itself increased its odium as a privileged class, by its intemperance, its ignorance, its absurdity, and its scandal. In such a general abandonment of the ancient system, such a despair of supporting it, it is absurd to ascribe to any particular class the catastrophe in which the epoch ended. None set about revolutionising intentionally; but each stirred when it found its place irksome; each, where and how it had the power. As the noblesse had proved male-content at one time, the magistracy at another, so now a new combination of society, the lettered class, rebelled with better success, for universal sympathy supported them; and step the first was taken in revolution."

This revolution, so important in itself and its consequences, begins at the conclusion of the volume now before us. We shall refrain from its analysis till we have the whole; and, for the present, must say, that the first two volumes of the *History of France* are among the very best the *Cabinet Cyclopadia* has yet put forth. Mr. Crowe is a man of talent: he thinks as well as compiles.

A Biographical Memoir of the late Dr. Walter Oudney and Captain Hugh Clapperton, both R.N. and Major A. Gordon Laing, all of whom died amid their enterprising Endeavours to explore the Interior of Africa. By the Rev. T. Nelson, M.W.S. 18mo. pp. 150. Edinburgh, 1830, Waugh and Innes; London, Whittaker and Co.

This is a small but very striking volume, containing concise biographies of the three distinguished Scotsmen whose names are given in

the title-page. Those of the two former are derived from personal intimacy and near and authentic sources; the latter is more of a compilation; but the whole will be read with much interest by every class of the community.

As the public, however, is well acquainted with the outlines of their personal memoirs, and the details of their several expeditions, we shall not repeat such particulars (all of which, indeed, have appeared in our own columns), but confine ourselves to a few extracts which possess the greatest degree of novelty. The following is from a letter of Dr. Oudney to Professor Jameson, dated Mourzuk, June 6, 1822.

"I have anxiously searched for springs, but have found none fit for an accurate result. The whole country is a spring, if I may use the expression, for water comes bubbling up on digging a few feet; its temperature then is affected by the earth, and the heat indicated is of no use in ascertaining the mean temperature of the place, and consequently its elevation. The abundance of water in a country in which rain scarcely ever falls, and in which there is no dew, is a curious and interesting circumstance to the philosophic inquirer. It is not generated in the earth, and it cannot be supplied by the sea. From whence then does it come? Is it from the tropical rains? or is it from rivers lost in the earth? The supply is constant, and the wells yield as much at one time as another. The supposition that appears most probable to me is, that the countries to the southward are much higher than this; that during the rainy season water penetrates a considerable way into the earth, till it meets with strata resisting its farther descent, and then that it flows along these like a river to far distant countries. My explanation may be censured, but still, on reflection, I regard it as the most probable that I can think of. There is another interesting feature in Fezzan, namely, the constant formation of salt on the surface of the sand. In travelling along, the different stages of the process are very distinctly observable. First, a thin crust is formed like hoar frost, and this continues to increase in thickness. In some places the layer of salt is a foot deep. At present I must defer the explanation of this phenomenon till I shall have time to enter upon the description of the geological structure of Fezzan."

Upon the above theory of water, we may observe, that it seems to strengthen Sir Rufane Donkin's idea of the Niger being absorbed under ground, and flowing along strata exactly as Dr. Oudney supposes. It is much to be regretted that nearly all the materials collected by Dr. Oudney have been lost.

Of Clapperton, the writer says:

"No memoir of his life has yet appeared at all worthy of him. We have seen in one periodical an atrocious libel upon his memory, the emanation evidently of a mean and malignant spirit. Any newspaper notices of him which have been printed are meagre in the extreme; and the 'Short Sketch' which is prefixed to the Journal of his Second Expedition, and purporting to be the work of his uncle, a colonel of marines, although the best account of him which has yet appeared, contains exceedingly little that is really interesting. Such being the lack of materials, we regret much that we shall not be able to produce a memoir adequate to the subject; but we can assure our readers that we have used all diligence to obtain the most accurate and ample information which can now be had, and shall therefore proceed to submit it to their candid consideration."

After narrating his birth, family, education, &c. and his early sea service, Mr. Nelson tells us—

"After Sir Edward Owen was appointed to the command of the British naval force upon the Canadian lakes, he gave Clapperton an acting order as a Lieutenant, and appointed him to the command of the Confidence schooner. This was a situation, which, as it implied more responsibility than any he had hitherto held, likewise allowed him a greater degree of liberty than he could have enjoyed had he been assigned a birth on board of a vessel commanded by a superior officer. When, therefore, he had the command of the Confidence, he was in the habit of making excursions into the forests on the coast, both of lake Huron and lake Erie, for the purpose of shooting game. While engaged in these excursions, he cultivated an acquaintance with several of the Indian tribes. The romantic turn of his mind led him not only to delight to associate with those aboriginal inhabitants of America, but also to adopt their manners and customs, and even to acquire their language. He became a great favourite among them; for he sometimes treated them with feasts, and on these occasions they used to fire a *feu de joie* in honour of him as their benefactor. At one time, indeed, he entertained serious intentions of uniting himself to the Indians, marrying a princess, and thereby becoming a chief amongst them; and actually assumed the distinctive badge of the Huron nation. This romantic and foolish design was, however, soon relinquished; but the feasts which he had given to the chiefs led to deficiency in his accounts to the victualling department, and this deficiency was afterwards deducted from his half-pay, and was the means of involving him in pecuniary difficulties, from which he was not altogether relieved till after his return from his first expedition from Africa."

His character is further illustrated by the following account of him in Edinburgh, during one of his "leaves of absence."

"Here, being an entirely idle man, fond of adventures withal, and in a place where they might easily be found, he soon had a hand in some curious scenes. Having little idea of economy, and not being well acquainted with the value of money, and indeed caring nothing for it whatever, provided he got enough to serve his purposes at the time when it was wanted, the quarterly items of his half-pay did not last him long. Indeed, he entertained some singular notions on the subject of borrowing money; and when he had recourse to his friends for a supply, he gave them to understand that he was doing them a favour by becoming their debtor. As an instance of the careless way in which he parted with his money when in Edinburgh, we may mention the following incident. At this time, a young man, the son of a staunch anti-patronist, was figuring away in this town as a popular preacher, in which capacity he became so notorious, that week after week he was puffed in the newspapers, and was attended by vast crowds on Sunday, when he held forth in a well-known chapel of ease. This person happened to meet Clapperton one day just after he had drawn his quarter's pay, and he immediately laid a plan, and forthwith commenced the putting of it in practice, for the purpose of getting possession of a considerable share of it. He said to Clapperton that he had that day met with a great disappointment, in not getting from his friends a remittance of money which he had expected; that now he would not get it before Monday; nor would he have cared for the delay of a day

or two, had he not promised to pay his tailor's account, and regretted exceedingly that he should not be able to do it, as he was a lover of punctuality, and was anxious above every thing to keep his word. At the end of this fair speech, Clapperton asked his reverend friend how much money would serve his purpose, and was told that ten pounds would do all he wanted, till he heard from his friends on Monday. Clapperton, believing the man to be honest, gave him the sum specified, when the reverend gentleman asked him to go to Barclay's hotel, and he would treat him to his dinner. Away they went. An excellent dinner was set upon the table and discussed. Madeira, champagne, and other expensive wines, were called for, and the two got cheerful, joyous, happy, glorious. At length the swindler, as he proved to be, made some pretence for going out for a little. He went, but never returned; and Clapperton, in addition to the ten pounds which he had given him, never to see again, had a bill of between two and three pounds more to pay before he could leave the house."

As Lander, Clapperton's faithful servant, is now engaged in pursuing a similar mission to that in which his master perished, we copy the short notice of him at page 98.

"This man had been a wanderer from his youth. When only eleven years of age, he accompanied a mercantile gentleman to the West Indies. He was absent three years; and on his return went to France and other places on the continent, as a gentleman's servant, and continued abroad in that capacity till his nineteenth year. On his return home, he did not stay long in his native country, but went to South Africa with Major Colebrook, and traversed, along with that gentleman, the whole of the Cape colony, from one extremity to the other. The reason why he left Major Colebrook has not been made public; but, on his return to England in 1824, he heard of Captain Clapperton's second expedition to the interior of Africa, and regarding the adventure as something peculiarly suited to his roving disposition, he went to the captain and tendered his services, which were accepted."

With this we conclude, and warmly recommend the little volume to our readers. The author's style is his worst fault, in consequence of many of his periods being unconsciously long; but, nevertheless, the meaning is obvious, and the matter peculiarly interesting.

The Life of the Right Rev. Thomas Fanshawe Middleton, D.D., late Lord Bishop of Calcutta. By the Rev. Charles Webb Le Bas, M.A. &c. &c. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1831. Rivingtons.

THE great utility of this work would have been more truly felt, and more deservedly appreciated, had it made its appearance some years ago. It is of little positive service to give information of the nature, or draw attention to the existence, of difficulties that once threw their impediments in the way, and became as stumbling blocks in the path we were about to journey, long after these have been mitigated, if not wholly removed. These volumes, had they been laid before the public immediately upon the decease of Bishop Middleton, would, as conveying the experience of a man who first encountered the many obstacles, and was, therefore, the more capable of pointing out the way to surmount them—would have been invaluable to all whose duty called them, or whose desire urged them, to labour in the Christian cause among the myriads of India.

The plain narrative of a predecessor is, in every course of life, productive of benefit, and the best source whence the thirst for useful information may be slaked; but when the region we are about to enter is unknown, and the path in which we are to follow has been trodden but by one, the experience of that one is of the highest practical importance. Such is the case with the life of Bishop Middleton, the first Protestant bishop in India. The life of a successor has supplied that intelligence which was to have been expected from his precursor. The work contains principally the actual business of the Indian church. We quote the following passage as indicative of the hindrances by which the zealous must expect to be partially thwarted.

"In other respects, the scene to which the bishop returned from his travels did not promise similar satisfaction or encouragement. In the first place, it was impossible for him to observe without pain that fresh dangers seemed to be arraying themselves against the cause of genuine Christianity in India, and from a quarter that, of all others, might have been the least suspected. A Brahmin, by the name of Rammohun Roy, had recently renounced the grosser absurdities of his national creed, though without becoming even half a convert to Christianity; and his first considerable exploit in his new character was to publish an 'Appeal' to the Christian world, to extinguish what he was pleased to term the *polytheism* of the Trinity! 'And, certainly,' says the bishop, 'he makes out his case quite as well as Lant Carpenter or Belsham. It was but the other day that Christians were considered as bound to be cautious how they attacked the follies of the Hindoos; nay, indeed the feeling still prevails—and now a Hindoo comes forward to reform Christianity, and to attack the follies and prejudices of the whole Catholic church of Christ, whom he denominates a *sect*.' That the light which had dawned upon himself might not be hidden from his countrymen, Rammohun, it seems, was busy in translating his work into the native languages, for the instruction of his countrymen. And what was the most curious particular of the whole history, it was understood that he had derived material assistance in its composition from a Christian, who had been formerly of the baptist persuasion, but who, in attempting the conversion of the Brahmin to the doctrine of the Trinity, became himself a convert to the deism of his catechumen, and actually set up a Unitarian chapel in Calcutta! 'It is unquestionably my duty,' says the bishop, 'to take up the question, provided I can find time for it. But a slight answer would be worse than nothing: it requires a volume. The writing, however, of a volume is not the whole difficulty; the printing is as difficult; for the expense here is ruinous—three times what it is in England: and, besides, there is no sale. I question whether, according to the prevailing notions here, the bishop could print for sale. If it were not treated as trading, it would be thought mean: he ought to give away all the copies; to which there is this objection—that thus they who will not read a book possess it, while they who want it, go without.' It will easily be conceived that a circumstance like this must have been deeply distressing to a person like Bishop Middleton, whose whole faculties were wrapped up in the one grand purpose of his mission, and whose spirits were kept in a state of perpetual excitement by the multitude of harassing anomalies with which his peculiar situation surrounded him."

We give the contrast of character between Bishop Heber and Bishop Middleton.

"The loss of such a man as Bishop Middleton irresistibly invites us to a momentary contemplation of the distinguished prelate who was selected to supply his place. The imagination can scarcely, perhaps, picture a contrast, in some respects, more striking than that which was exhibited in the characters of Bishop Middleton and his successor. It is, nevertheless, such a contrast as may well exist between two great and good men. Many qualities they had in common with each other. Each was distinguished by rich and various mental accomplishments, by a noble and almost saint-like disregard of mere personal interest, and by an entire dedication of himself to the holy cause which called them forth from their country. But in the general 'form and pressure' of their minds, they were totally dissimilar. The soul of Heber was essentially poetical: he surveyed with the eye of a poet all the regions both of art and nature—the achievements of man, and the works and word of God. The power of poetry descended upon his dreams, and visited him in his private meditations and devotions, and often shed a celestial radiance over his ministrations in the sanctuary. In Bishop Middleton the imaginative faculty was far less predominant: his chief endowments were a profound and penetrating sagacity—a vast strength of purpose—a robust frame of mind, less fitted to pursue the bright creations of fancy than to wrestle with severe truth, or to grapple with the stubborn realities of life. The characters of these two men may, perhaps, be said to have borne towards each other a relation somewhat resembling that which painting bears to sculpture—the canvass delights in the glow and richness of vivid colouring, the intricate vicissitudes of light and shadow, and the endless combination of objects and variety of distances. All these the marble rejects. It may be able, indeed, to bear the impress of every passion which can agitate our nature, or of every excellence which can dignify it; but the effect is always, more or less, accompanied by something of a sober and austere simplicity. It is, perhaps, scarcely too fanciful to surmise that, of those who intimately knew each of these eminent worthies, there might be some who would so far enter into the spirit of this comparison as to desiderate a painting of Heber, while they regarded a statue as the more appropriate representation of his great predecessor. The same contrast which ran through their moral nature prevailed in their intellectual. The souls of both were thoroughly pervaded by a solemn sense of Christian duty; but this principle was displayed according to the different temperaments of the men. In the one, it often took the form of steady and inflexible resolution; in the other, the aspect of facility and mildness. The one seemed incessantly watchful over himself, lest the pleasure of compliance should betray him into the surrender of something which duty commanded him to maintain: the other appeared fearful lest the responsibilities of public life should make him insensible to the feelings and the wishes of men whose worth entitled them to respect. The one was on his guard against the suggestions of easy and mistaken benevolence: the other was fearful lest official integrity and firmness should petrify, at last, into obstinacy and self-will. Different, however, as these individuals were, it would seem to have been providentially appointed that two such men should appear in India, in the order which actually occurred. Without the unbending

constancy of Bishop Middleton, it is very doubtful whether the foundations of the episcopal church could have been solidly and permanently laid. But when that great work was once accomplished, the same degree of stern energy might not, perhaps, be so absolutely essential for carrying on the superstructure, and applying the decorations and executing the details of that mighty and glorious design. When Bishop Heber arrived, the most enlightened portion of the Anglo-Indian public had been taught to regard the episcopal establishment with deep respect. The commanding qualities of the first bishop had secured for it the veneration of the community. It is not, therefore, altogether surprising that his successor should feel himself the more at liberty to follow the native impulse of his temper, and to choose the kindlier office of engaging in its behalf their cordial attachment and fidelity. And never surely was any human being more consummately adapted, than that successor, for the office of winning the affections. The singleness of his heart, the simplicity of his manners, the heavenly sweetness of his temper, the passionate devotion of all his faculties to the work of an evangelist—seemed to bend towards him the hearts of all the people, as the heart of one man. They who were at first surprised at the unostentatious plainness of his demeanour, were soon overpowered by the vast resources and genuine dignity of his mind. The result has been, that in the course of twelve years the Indian church with reverence and affection, and have associated episcopacy in the public mind with every thing that is admirable in learning and genius, or sublime in piety and virtue."

We have only to observe, in conclusion, that the details of Bishop Middleton's labours are rendered interesting to their utmost, by being garbed in the eloquent and perspicuous language of Mr. Webb Le Bas.

The Chancery Suit: a Comedy, in Five Acts. By R. B. Peake. 8vo. pp. 86. London, 1831. E. Bull.

THE publication of a genuine and acted comedy may now-a-days be hailed as a rare occurrence, and we welcome our clever friend, R. B. Peake, to the closet accordingly. The reading of his *Chancery Suit* has confirmed our favourable impression on seeing it performed: it is light, gay, and pleasant, with enough of story to make it interesting, enough of wit to make it amusing, and enough of situation or incident to keep the attention always alive.

The Royal Register, Genealogical and Historic, for 1831. By P. J. Burke. Pp. 226. London. Jennings and Chaplin.

THIS volume is very prettily got up, with another version of the Queen, from Green's miniature, engraved by F. Engleheart, as a frontispiece. The letter-press consists of an adaptation of the *Almanac de Gotha*, with considerable additions, and exhibits lists of the sovereign princes of Europe, with the living members of their families; of princes not invested with sovereign power; of ministers of state and the *corps diplomatique* at the different courts; and the commencement of an historic outline of the sovereign houses of Europe, which is promised to be continued in future volumes. On reference, we find this Register full of useful information on the subjects it embraces, though we observe some slight errors and inaccuracies of the press. In the title-page we should like to

know why "historic" should not terminate with an *al* as well as "genealogical," were it only for uniformity's sake?

The History of Rome, by B. G. Niebuhr. Translated by Julius Charles Hare, M.A. and Connop Thirlwall, M.A. Vol. I. Second edition, revised, with the Additions in the third edition of the original. 8vo. pp. 615. London, 1831, J. Taylor; Cambridge, Deighton; Oxford, Parker.

THE enlightened and indefatigable Niebuhr died at Bonn, on the 2d instant, at the premature age of fifty-three, without having completed this admirable history, the manuscript of nearly the whole of the last volume of which had not long before been accidentally destroyed by fire. The author had returned with energy to repair his severe loss, but death arrested his progress, and the world is deprived of the consummation of his labours.

In noticing this new edition of the first volume, it is unnecessary for us to revive the cavils and disputes which attended the original publication: suffice it to say, that the author, and consequently his translators, have strengthened some of the positions most attacked, and corroborated some of the results which the preceding data did not (it was alleged) sufficiently support. It is now, therefore, a work of still greater merit than before; and before, it was one of the most striking productions of the age.

Familiar Analysis of the Calendar of the Church of England, &c. &c. By the Rev. Hugh Martynale, A.M. London, 1831. Effingham Wilson.

CONSTRUCTED as a perpetual Guide to the Almanac, in the form of question and answer, this publication boasts of much to amuse as well as to instruct the reader. It seems to be carefully and judiciously compiled; and we can fairly recommend it as a fit present for the young.

The Constable's Assistant. Pp. 52. London, 1831. Saunders and Benning; Rivingtons; Hatchard and Son.

THE utility and value of this pamphlet (published by the Society for the Suppression of Vice) can hardly be appreciated from its slight form and humble title. It is, however, a most meritorious work; not only teaching constables their important duties, but the public at large how to judge of them, to aid in them, and to benefit by them. Few persons can have an idea how advantageous this knowledge would be to the best interests of society: we assure them it would be productive of most excellent effects; and we call upon the well-meaning to join with us in recommending and diffusing this Blackstone of its kind.

Maunder's Treasury of Knowledge and Library of Reference. Parts I. and II. 18mo. London, 1831. S. Maunder.

ALTHOUGH nine months only have elapsed since we awarded to Mr. Maunder our honest praise for the ability he had shewn in producing this truly admirable volume, which we then described as the cheapest and best extant—a third edition (and with additions of value, too), as beautifully printed, and at the same low price as before, has just appeared.

We are not surprised that a book so generally useful, and, withal, so amazingly cheap, should have already obtained a most extensive sale; for it is just that kind of article which suits every body, and is worth every body's

money; in fact, there does not appear to be two opinions on the subject, for we find that all our critical brethren fully concurred in the view we took of *Maunder's Treasury of Knowledge*; and many of them expressed themselves in terms far more eulogistic. Surely this ought to be sufficient encouragement to the compiler to proceed with his intended series, for the execution of which no person can be better qualified.

The History and Topography of the United States of North America, from the earliest period to the present time. Edited by John Howard Hinton, A.M. Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Hinton; and Simpkin and Marshall, London: Wardle, Philadelphia.

ON the appearance of the first part of this work we expressed our favourable opinion of it; an opinion which the five succeeding Parts have confirmed. For the reason we have already stated, namely, the disjointed form of the publication, we are unable, at present, to enter into an examination of the literary portion of the work; but, after its completion, we shall probably take an opportunity of doing so. Some of the plates are eminently beautiful.

Stories from the History of Italy, in a connected Series, from the Invasion of Alaric to the present time. By Anne Manning. 12mo. pp. 359. London, 1831. Baldwin and Craddock.

THIS is a very pleasant little volume, and a very pretty one too, with a sweetly engraved frontispiece. We recommend it to our young readers, as embodying, in a popular form, most of the interesting and romantic events in Italian history. We extract a pathetic observation of Cosmo di Medici, while labouring under the affliction of his second son's decease—"Being carried through the apartments of his palace, he said: 'This is too great a house for so small a family.'"

Dr. Lardner's Cabinet Library, Vol. II. George IV., Vol. I. Longman and Co.

WE have devoted so much space to France in another of Dr. Lardner's "Cabinet" volumes, that we can only afford room to notice this (for the present) as very ably written. We shall examine its other qualities, anon.

Geraldine of Desmond: an Historical Romance. 3 vols. 12mo. Second edition. Colburn and Bentley.

NEARLY a hundred *Gazettes* ago (which is a new way of computing time—see No. 646), we noticed this romance, by Miss Crumpe, who certainly chose an interesting period, and a memorable episode in the history of Ireland, on which to found her romance—for the age of Elizabeth, and the feud between the houses of Desmond and Ormonde, well deserve these characters. Remarkable on the minutie of the details into which a perhaps too anxious research among the older writers led the fair author, we gave her credit for a good style, and many spirited sketches. To this merit she has now added, by way of illustration, a selection of curious autographs; and some of her notes throw light upon the era. For example, she derives the name of our London street "Piccadilly" from ornaments called "piccadillies," sold there, and worn by Queen Elizabeth in her hair. She explains the word "sugan," applied to a Lord of Desmond, to mean a "lord of straw;" but we are not sure of this,

and are rather inclined to think it meant a brother by what in Germany is styled a left-handed marriage. The individual in question was, we fancy, a half-brother of the great Desmond. But enough of a second edition, to which we refer rather in justice than of custom: since we sometimes mention those which bear out our favourable report, it is due to do as much for a publication, the success of which has exceeded our expectations.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE second "evening illustration" of the present session was given on the 25th ult. by the secretary, Mr. Aikin. The subject was the manufacture of silk, being the continuation of a paper by the secretary read last session. In that, after some historical notices respecting the introduction into Europe, first of manufactured silk, and afterwards of the animal that yields the raw material, a general sketch was given of the management of the silk-worm, of the method of winding the silk off the cocoons, and of converting the raw silk obtained into the two kinds of thread employed in the manufacture of this substance, namely, tram and organzine.

There remains to be described, said the secretary, the methods of boiling, bleaching, and dyeing silk, and of manufacturing it by the loom into the various fabrics of use, ornament, and luxury, for which this beautiful material is so eminently adapted. The latter alone of these subjects was discussed on the present occasion.

The secretary began by observing, that the texture of plain woven cloth differs in no essential respect from matting or basket-work; both of them consisting of a number of parallel threads or twigs, united together by others at right angles to the first, and laid in alternately above and below each of the former.

The most ancient looms, or rather weaving frames, were vertical, and probably extremely similar to those at present in use in the Barbary states, and in some parts of India. A model of the latter, from the East India Company's museum, was exhibited, with the several implements required in its use; and a very interesting comparison was then made of these with the descriptions of weaving left us in the works of the Greek and Roman writers. A short statement of the different kinds of fabrics capable of being made in the vertical loom, was then given. The description of the common, or horizontal loom, succeeded, and its advantages over the vertical loom were pointed out. The principle of all the kinds of woven structure was then stated in detail, and illustrated by drawings and diagrams; namely, that in plain cloth the angle of the *shed* formed by the warp threads, and within which the cross threads, or shoot, is laid, is formed by raising every other thread of the warp, and depressing the alternate ones,—so that the number of threads above and below the shoot shall be equal and alternate. Whereas, in all kinds of figured weaving, the number of warp threads above and below the shoot is not equal, nor is their arrangement simply alternate.

The loom with many treadles was next described, and the contrivance of easing the weaver of the labour of raising them, by the substitution of a *draw-boy*.

The use of harness and lashes in place of treadles was next described, and the structure of the jacquard, or Lyonese loom, was demonstrated on a very beautiful working model.

Many other interesting models were exhibited, particularly a riband loom, in actual work.

A splendid series of specimens of almost every variety of silk fabric, both French and English, was then shewn, and their essential characters described; and the business of the evening concluded with the exhibition of some splendid gold and other tissues of Malay manufacture, furnished by the liberality of the directors of the East India Company.

The strength of the Society of Arts chiefly lies in the extensive connexions that it possesses with the commercial and manufacturing part of the community; and it is most gratifying to observe the harmonious concurrence of all parties in furnishing information, models, and specimens, to enrich these very interesting and crowded meetings of the Society and its friends.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

THE first evening meeting of the season, at the College of Physicians, appeared to be an object of attraction to members of each of the three learned professions. Sir Henry Hallford, Bart. the president, was in the chair; and the meeting was attended by many persons of eminence in church and state, amongst whom were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Baron Falk, Earl Stanhope, the Bishop of London, Baron Vaughan, Mr. Justice Park, Mr. Justice James Park, the Vice-Chancellor, the Attorney-General, Sir R. Inglis, Mr. C. Wynn, the Dean of Chichester, Dr. Goodenough, Dr. Phillimore, &c. &c. A paper was read by the president, and was listened to by his audience with great interest and satisfaction; for, in addition to the eloquence of its style, and the animation with which it was delivered, the subject of it was happily chosen, being one of universal interest which could not fail to "come home to men's business and bosoms;" and the sentiments which it contained respecting the moral conduct and right behaviour of physicians in situations requiring discretion and good sense, came with propriety and authority from a gentleman of much experience, distinguished for his success in practice, as well as for his station and influence in society. The President commenced by noticing the elegance of Sir George Baker's essay on the effects produced on the body by the passions of the mind, and recommended to the attention of his hearers the converse of that subject; viz. the influence of the body upon the mind; which is so considerable, that an experienced physician can often assign the malady under which a patient labours, from knowing only the condition of his mind. What can be more different, he observed, than the mental state of a person suffering under a fit of indigestion, and that of one affected by a slight inflammation of the brain, when the excited patient is ready to

"Pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon?" By apoplexy the mind is altogether confounded; but the effects of palsy on the mind are very remarkable—the passions appear to be let loose (especially when they have been previously ill regulated), and the patient is irritable, and roused into anger, or melted into tears, alike without reason. Such was the unhappy state of Marlborough and of Swift—

"From Marlborough's eyes the tears of dotage flow;
And Swift expires, a driveller and a show."

Of epilepsy it was remarked, that when long continued, and when it originates from disease of the brain itself, it passes into idiocy; not so when it arises only from some passing irritation, as from an oppressed stomach—so far Julius Caesar and Mahomet are said to have

been epileptic. We were particularly struck with the sketch which was given of the cheerfulness of mind often exhibited by the poor victim of pulmonary consumption, contrasted with the dulness and torpor of the female labouring under climacteric disease. Disorders of the heart, too, it was observed, do not constantly oppress the spirits: whether this be owing to a special allotment of Providence, or whether it should be referred to the general principle which Paley has stated with respect to pain—that it has the power of shedding satisfaction over intervals of ease, which few pleasures can surpass, and thus of converting remission of suffering into positive enjoyment. That pain alone does not obscure the intellect may be observed in *tic douloureux*, and still more amidst the sufferings of a fatal iliac passion, the horrors of which were portrayed in a very forcible manner. Sufferings less than these the Romans thought a sufficient reason for ridding themselves abruptly of life. But the Christian bears his sufferings from higher motives, and with a different spirit. It was mentioned by the president as a remarkable fact, that, of the great numbers whom it had been his painful professional duty to attend at the last period of their lives, very few have exhibited an unwillingness to die; except, indeed, from painful apprehensions respecting the condition of those whom they might leave behind. This feeling of resignation, although it might arise in some from mere bodily exhaustion, appeared in others to be the genuine result of Christian principles. And here some remarks were introduced on the proper conduct of a physician as to warning a patient of his danger. In general, the president stated, he thought it his first duty to prolong his patient's life by every possible means, and not to step out of his province, and endanger the safety of his patient by adding alarm to his mind. To the friends, indeed, of the patient he always imparted the fullest information; and they might, if necessary, awaken his fears, without altogether destroying his hopes, as he would still think there was an appeal from them to his physician. But the physician's word would be received as a condemnation to death, and thus perhaps (what was awful to think of) his very repentance might be rendered less acceptable in the sight of Heaven. Still there were cases which might require from the physician an opposite line of conduct, so that no rule could be laid down which ought not sometimes to be infringed. But if good sense and good feeling were not wanting, the difficulty in each case would not be insurmountable. Yet the difficulty must necessarily be increased when the patient is of so elevated a station that his safety becomes an object of solicitude to the nation. Bulletins, from their public nature, cannot be so explicit as the intimations intrusted to friends in private life. The former ought not to be calculated to deceive; but neither, on the other hand, ought they to contain such full information as may be given to the government and family of the monarch. In the case of our late sovereign, George IV., Sir Henry Hallford informed the government, as early as the 27th of April, that his Majesty laboured under disease of the heart, and that effusion into the chest might soon be expected; but it was not until the latter end of May that his Majesty's inquiries and solicitude concerning himself rendered it practicable to inform him of his danger. The announcement of it induced him to take the sacrament in addition to the daily religious exercise which he had long been in the habit of using;

and this last duty afforded him the greatest consolation. After this it was always possible to cheer his mind by turning it to any favourable change in his symptoms. Thus was practised that happy art of soothing the bed of death, which Lord Bacon has encouraged physicians to use; and the late king was spared from the constant contemplation of death, until a few minutes before his end, when he appeared not so much dying as sinking into a quiet slumber. The paper was illustrated by many classical allusions and apposite quotations, was heard throughout with great attention, and towards its close appeared to excite extreme interest.

It was understood that there would be five more evening meetings at the College of Physicians, to be held on the last Monday of the present and of each of the four following months.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

A. B. LAMBERT, Esq. in the chair. Another portion of Mr. Blackwall's paper on the structure and economy of the spider, was read. Professor Ehrenberg of Berlin, Professor Adrian, Dr. Jussieu of Paris, Dr. Ruppell of Frankfurt, and Professor Hornemann of Copenhagen, were severally proposed as foreign members. A number of fellows were elected. At the conversazione after the meeting, amongst other subjects connected with literature and the arts, which were spoken of, it was stated that Professor Buckland, Mr. Charles Bell, Dr. Roget, and others, had nearly completed their works, as competitors for the legacy left by the late eccentric Duke of Bridgewater, for the best essay on the structure of the earth and the human hand. The bare mention of the names of the above gentlemen will be sufficient to point out to most of the readers of the *Lit. Gaz.* the particular branch of science undertaken by each, viz. Professor Buckland, geology; Mr. C. Bell, anatomy; and Dr. Roget, physiology.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

DR. HENDERSON in the chair. A communication on the culture of the potato, by Mr. Knight, the president of the Society, was read by Mr. Lindley. The author seems to think that a great deal more might be done with this valuable, though, by some economists, much traduced, esculent. He then goes on to shew that by picking the blossoms as soon as they become visible, the tubers will be considerably increased; a fact in horticulture, by the by, which was noticed in a former No. of the *Literary Gazette*. In this mode the author trained a young seedling plant, in a shady situation of the stove-house, till it grew between four and five feet high: he then removed it to the open ground, covering the entire stem with mould: by these means he obtained, within the first year, one peck of potatoes from the single plant. Mr. Knight concludes by observing, that if the potato were more generally used as food for cattle, the quantity of animal food would be materially increased.

The exhibitions on the table at this season of the year are necessarily without much interest.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY.—Mr. Hamilton, in the chair. Minutes of the preceding meeting were read, and a list of donations to the Society; among which was a new ruler for drawing parallel lines with extreme accuracy, invented and presented by Mr. Jones. The principle of this instrument is the determination of the parallelism by a spirit level,

movable on the ruler by rack-work; and its adaptation was considered most ingenious and perfect when the paper on which the lines are to be drawn can be placed in a vertical or much inclined position; but without this it is inapplicable. Subsequently, several new members were balloted for, others proposed, and a long extract from the Society's Common-place Book was read; being a communication from Dr. Holland, of geographical desiderata in Greece; i. e. points to which that distinguished traveller considers the attention of future labourers in the same field would be advantageously directed: they related severally to Thessaly, Delphi, Dodona, monasteries of Meteora (in some of which the writer thinks valuable MSS. might be yet found), rocks of Meteora, chain of Pindus, Paramithia, ancient theatre near Joannina (which is surrounded by the magnificent remains of a town, to which, as yet, no name is attached on sufficient authority), the Tetrapolis of Doris, Thebes, Corinth, Argos, and Olympia. Nor can we conclude this portion of our notice without observing how extremely advantageous it would be if other travellers would imitate the example thus set them; and, by inviting attention to those deficiencies in their information, of which none can know so much as themselves, acquire the certainty of having these deficiencies more or less speedily supplied.

Two papers were afterwards read, furnished by Mr. Barrow, and prefaced by a notice inviting the attention of the Society to the great resemblance between the forms of coralline and volcanic island-formations, both being nearly always circular; whence great probability is lent to the idea that the former are uniformly based on the latter, and, instead of rising from the depths of the sea, are reared by the extraordinary insects which are their artisans, from the edges of the sub-marine volcanoes shooting up near the surface; and as exemplifications of this similitude, the accompanying papers were interesting. One was an account of the Island of Deception, one of the New Shetland group, situate in lat. 62° 55' south, long. 60° 28' west, which seems to be, in miniature, the Iceland of the southern hemisphere—no fewer than eighty-one jets of steam having been counted at once on it, and hot springs boiling up in many places from under the snow. The other was a description of the Cocos, or Keeling islands, situated about 400 miles south-west of the Straits of Sunda, in lat. 11° south, long. 37° east; in which the volcanic action seems extinguished, and the coralline formation is greatly advanced; but in both, the circular form is exactly preserved. Thanks were voted to the respective contributors of the above papers, and the meeting adjourned.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday evening, Earl Stanhope, the president of this Society, delivered his annual address. It was very long, and took a comprehensive view of the domestic and foreign relations of the Society. It also, in grateful language, acknowledged his Majesty's gracious condescension in becoming the patron of the Society. On the motion of Sir Henry Hallford, thanks were voted to the noble president, and his address was unanimously ordered to be printed. The room was exceedingly crowded.

LONDON PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

DR. EDWARD WRIGHT, President, in the chair. A critical examination of Dr. Andrew Combe's "*Observations on Mental Derangement*" were read. Dr. Elliotson related seve-

ral interesting cases of diseased function of various portions of the brain: amongst others, were that of a woman, the whole of whose perceptive powers appeared to be affected; she had no distinct idea of time, and always imagined that she saw the figure of some person near her; her verbal memory was also defective:—a curious case of morbid excitement of the organs of combativeness and destructiveness in a female:—and one of a hypochondriacal subject, in whom the organ of caution was very large.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

GEORGE RENNIE, Esq. V.P. in the chair. A paper, by Dr. Lardner, on the Linnean theory, was read. Dr. Latham, of Winchester, the celebrated ornithologist, and now senior fellow of the Society, presented a General History of Birds, in 11 vols.

At a recent meeting a paper was read, entitled, "on a simple electro-chemical method of ascertaining the presence of different metals, applied to detect minute quantities of metallic poisons," by Edmund Davy, Esq. F.R.S. and professor of chemistry to the Royal Dublin Society; of which the following is an abstract:—

The Voltaic arrangement employed by the author consisted merely of small slips of different metals, generally zinc and platinum, placed in contact and forming a galvanic circuit with the interposed fluid suspected to contain the poisonous metal; in which case, as was formerly shewn by Sir H. Davy in his Bakerian lecture, the metal held in solution was deposited in the form of crystals on the negative surface. The zinc was usually employed in the form of foil: the platinum was, in some cases, a small crucible, or a spatula; but more frequently platinum foil was used. It is generally necessary to mix a few drops of acid with the metallic compounds that are subjected to this test, and that are placed in contact with the platinum. On applying the zinc foil, the platinum will soon become coated with the reduced metal.

The author then enters into the detail of his experiments on the efficacy of arsenic, mercury, lead, and copper, in their different states of oxidation and saline combinations, and of the precautions necessary to be observed in the case of each metal. He was enabled to detect the presence of arsenic by the exhibition of its characteristic properties, when only the 500th part of a grain of that metal was deposited on the platinum; and in some instances could appreciate even the 2,500th part of a grain by the application of appropriate tests.

The author next ascertained that the electro-chemical method is competent to the detection of very minute quantities of the different metals, when their compounds are mixed with various vegetable and animal substances. Thus the presence of arsenic could readily be discovered when mixed with all the ordinary articles of diet, such as wheaten flour, bread, starch, rice, potatoes, peas, soup, sugar, vinegar, gruel, tea, milk, eggs, gelatine, and various kinds of wine: also when mixed with the principal secretions of the alimentary canal, as bile and saliva. Arsenious acid, mixed with butter, lard, and oils, or with sheep's blood, or ox bile, was detected with great ease. Similar results were afforded by corrosive sublimate, the acetate of lead, and sulphate of copper, added in a small quantity to the most complicated mixtures of organic substances. In some instances, where the common tests either do

not act at all, or only act fallaciously, the electro-chemical method acts with the greatest certainty.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THURSDAY, W. R. Hamilton, Esq. V.P. in the chair.—Sir Thomas Phillips exhibited to the Society a plan of the foundation walls of a very extensive palace of King John, at Clarendon, in Wiltshire. Some letters were read from Henry VI. to the town of St. Edmund's Bury, directing the authorities to exert themselves in the suppression of the Lollards, who are accused of murder, plunder, and rapine. The secretary continued the reading of the Rev. Mr. Skinner's letters to Sir R. C. Hoare, on the site of Camelodunum.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

[Second Notice.]

BEFORE entering more minutely into the subject of the present exhibition at the Gallery of the British Institution, we beg to correct an error which we committed in our last notice, when we included the president's *Lavinia* among the novelties. There can be no one, however, whom it will not gratify to have a second view of so tasteful and characteristic a work.

No. 2. *Too hot*. Edwin Landseer, A.R.A.—In humour, variety of animal expression, and masterly execution, this cabinet gem has never been surpassed.

No. 3. *A subject from "The Lost Pleiad"* of Miss L. E. L. Henry Howard, R.A.—Mr. Howard has happily translated the poetry of this highly-gifted writer into the poetry of art.

No. 12. *Part of the Corn-market at Caen, formerly the Church of St. Sauveur*. D. Roberts.—Painted with extraordinary skill and facility. Nothing can exceed the beautiful effect of light, and the clearness of the half-tones.

No. 13. *Shipmeadow Lock, on the Waveney, painted for the Scenery of the Rivers of Norfolk*. James Stark.—The talents of Mr. Stark place him high in his department of art. The subject under our notice will make a beautiful feature in the publication for which it has been painted.

No. 23. *Gleaners*. W. T. Witherington, A.R.A.—We take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Witherington on the well-deserved initials added to his name. The present is a small work, but it is an admirable specimen of his abilities.

No. 25. *Cottage Industry*. Edwin Landseer, A.R.A.—A portrait, *en profile*, of the second daughter of the Duke of Bedford, as she appeared at a private masquerade; and a countenance of more exquisite beauty, delicacy, and sentiment, we never beheld.

No. 29. *A Nutting Party*. W. Collins, R.A.—Old as we are, we should like to make one among this merry group. The secluded and sylvan scenery, and the mellow-toned autumnal tints, come upon us at this inclement season with tenfold attraction.

No. 31. *L'Allegro*. Alfred Chalon, R.A.—Beautiful, but artificial; certainly not *L'Allegro* of Milton.

No. 37. *The Toilet*. G. S. Newton, A.R.A.—It would have been better had the quotation from Pope been omitted in the catalogue, as there will certainly be a difference of opinion as to the "heavenly image." It would be too much to expect of any artist an equality of excellence; and we are constrained to say that this is not one of Mr. Newton's happiest efforts. In drawing, especially, it is sadly deficient.

No. 45. *The Happy Highlander*. W. Kidd.—Full of mirth and matter; and the best production that we have seen from Mr. Kidd's pencil.

No. 54. *Amiens*. C. R. Stanley.—This subject, with its picturesque contrast of irregular habitations to the stately cathedral, belongs to a class of art in which Mr. Stanley's talents have always appeared to advantage, and never more so than in the present instance.

No. 59. *Titania, Puck, and Bottom; Midsummer Night's Dream*. John Partridge.—This picture has been exhibited before; but it was so hung that it could not be seen. It possesses a fine glow of colour. The ideality of Shakespeare's fairies presents no very easy task for the pencil. The naked substantiality of their queen in this composition is scarcely accordant with a being, who

"—the globe can compass soon,
Swifter than the wand'ring moon."

No. 64. *Windmill, Kent*. F. R. Lee.—No doubt a faithful representation of the place, without any attempt at composition, but wrought with such skill, and made up of so many varied, yet harmonious, hues, as to be altogether captivating.

No. 76. *Sketch of a subject for an Altarpiece; Martyrdom of some of the early Christians*. W. Etty, R.A.—A display of composition and colour that may vie with some of the best works of the Venetian or Florentine schools of art. It shews of what English genius is capable in the higher walks of art, if the taste of the times were prepared to encourage its efforts.

No. 80. *Captain Macheath*. H. Liverseege.—The author of the admirable novel of "Paul Clifford" ought to purchase this spirited representation of Gay's hero.

No. 81. *The Young Devotee*. A. G. Vickers.—Full of taste, with a delicious tone of colour.

No. 95. *Falstaff's Assignment with Mrs. Ford; Merry Wives of Windsor*. G. Clint, A.R.A.—Falstaff says, "I am not only witty in myself, but the cause that wit is in other men." Of graphic wit the fat knight has undoubtedly been an abundant source; and the present is a very pleasant example of it. Mr. Clint has exhibited the old voluptuary in the supposed triumph of his amorous design; while the quiet, but significant, look of Mrs. Ford is in perfect accordance with the trick which she is about to play him. The interior of the apartment, and the arrangement of the accessories, are excellent; and we have no hesitation in saying, that we consider this as one of the most successful works that have been founded on the prolific subject.

No. 96. *Spaniel Puppies*. Stephen Taylor.—There is great truth and nature in the awkward gambols of these unshaped cubs.

No. 106. *The Culprit*. No. 113. *The Catholic Question*. T. Webster.—Boysish mischief and scrapes continue to be the favourite subjects of this clever artist's pencil; and we have never seen him more successful than in the present pair of whimsical productions.

No. 129. *The Advertisement*. T. Clater.—This is not only a well-painted picture, but a well-told story. A stray dog having been found by a boy, a cobbler and an old Chelsea pensioner are examining a newspaper, in which the marks of the animal are described, with an accuracy which is very apparent in the complacent countenance of the youthful finder, who is anticipating the proposed reward for its restoration. The composition, character, and execution, of this little picture are admir-

able, and the effect is exceedingly concentrated and powerful.

No. 147. *Cavalry attacking a Battery of Guns*; No. 158. *Cavalry attacking and retreating*. T. Barker.—Treated in a style perfectly suitable to the subject; in action and character equal to Borgognone; and in composition and handling to the banditti of Salvator.

No. 151. "*A guest of thoughts, all tenants to the heart*." Shakespeare. W. Boxall.—Finely expressive of the sentiment. Why hung so low?

No. 155. *Interior of the Painted Hall, now the Picture Gallery, Greenwich Hospital*. John S. Davis.—It is with pride and pleasure we look on this palace-like interior, devoted to the pictorial representation of the achievements of our gallant tars. This picture is also a fine achievement in its way; and, combined with his former productions, has, very deservedly, procured for the artist patronage and employment. He is now on the continent, at the instance of Lord Farnborough, for the purpose of painting the interiors of the Vatican, the Escorial, and other celebrated places.

(To be continued.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Characteristic Sketches of Animals; drawn from the life, and engraved by Thomas Landseer.

Part V. Moon, Boys, and Graves. The majestic lion of Barbary, the fierce jaguar of Brazil, the formidable Polar bear, and the shy alpacas of the Southern Andes, are the subjects of Mr. Landseer's present number; and are all executed with the utmost fidelity and spirit. The illustrative vignettes are also admirable; that attached to the description of the Polar bear made us shudder with horror; while that attached to the description of the jaguar convulsed us with laughter.

Select Views of the Lakes of Scotland, from original paintings by John Fleming; engraved by Joseph Swan: with historical and descriptive Illustrations by John M. Leighton, Esq. Part II. Moon, Boys, and Graves.

LOCH-KATRINE, to which Sir Walter Scott's fine poem of "*The Lady of the Lake*" suddenly gave so much celebrity, forms the subject of the three views in the present number. They are all beautiful; especially that of the east end of the lake, with the mountain of Benvenue in the distance.

Library of the Fine Arts; or, *Monthly Repository of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, and Engraving*. No. I. Arnold.

VARIOUS periodical publications, exclusively devoted to the fine arts, have at different times been attempted in this country, but have uniformly failed. We hope the present undertaking may prove an exception to the general rule. The number which has just made its appearance contains much useful and pleasing information; and, if the work be carried on in the same spirit, it ought to receive the support of the professors and lovers of those arts which, in the language of the Preliminary Address, "have formed the secret and deep-cherished delight of the most amiable, the most enlightened and illustrious characters of every civilised age and country."

Sketches in Italy; drawn on stone by W. Linton. No. II. Moon, Boys, and Graves. We were much pleased with the first number of this truly original work, as giving us the

bona fide drawings of an artist, untripped by the finishing, and unshackled by the precision of the burin, and exhibiting the grand and beautiful scenes he depicts with the force of truth, and the freedom of genius; but we are still more so with the second. Not only does Mr. Linton shew considerable improvement in lithographic drawing (the general consequence of practice), but the views themselves are more interesting than any which we have hitherto seen of the land of beauty, wonder, and unparalleled associations. Every view is an especial gem: Amalfi, and its lonely convent, apparently cut out of the solid yet picturesque rocks which surround it; Zagarolo, contrasting this melancholy solitude by the splendour of "a city set upon a hill," bedight with palaces, and pinnacles, and towers; Rocca di Papa, a scene of singular softness and grandeur; and Nesso, on the Lake of Como, the most secluded and romantic glen into which the prying eyes of a painter ever glanced,—by turns delight us. We yet apprehend that the Fall of Terni will be generally considered the most masterly view in the present number. In the execution of his difficult task, the artist has preserved a breadth and magnificence, both in the sweeping torrent, which falls in one continuous mass of snowy waters, and in the surrounding rocks, such as we have seldom witnessed. Should the succeeding numbers of Mr. Linton's publication equal the present, (of which we have no reason to doubt,) he may safely venture to treble his impressions; for it cannot fail to be as attractive as it will be meritorious.

The Tight Shoe; painted by H. Richter, engraved in mezzotint by himself and J. P. Quilley. Ackermann.

A SPECIMEN of Richter's humour in his very best style, and extremely well engraved. The agony of the fellow with the tight shoe appeals in vain to the obdurate shoemaker. He will not believe that his work can hurt any body; in which opinion the Chelsea pensioner, on two wooden pins, evidently agrees. The cobbler's boy, and the barber who is looking in at the window, appear to enjoy the joke of the fit, and complete the spirit of this clever composition.

Macbeth and the Witches; painted by J. H. Nixon, mezzotint by G. H. Phillips. J. Kendrick.

WE have seen nothing approach so entirely to the Martin-like character of composition, imagination, and sublimity, as this little print by an artist with whose name we were previously unacquainted. The vision is particularly fine, and the production altogether one of the highest promise.

Landscape Illustrations of the Waverley Novels.

Part X. Engraved by W. and E. Finden. C. Tilt.

THE "*Tower in 1670*," for *Peccol of the Peak*, by Roberts; "*Linlithgow*," for *Waverley*, and "*Inch Cuilleach*," for *Rob Roy*, by Robson; and "*Lochleven Castle*," for *The Abbot*, by Gastineau, are the ornaments of this beautiful fasciculus, which does equal honour to the painters and to the engravers. The "*Tower*" and "*Linlithgow*" are both fine objects; and the other two beautiful natural landscapes.

Right Hon. Elizabeth Baroness Durham. Engraved by Thomson, from Sir T. Lawrence. THIS is the 74th of the sweet portraits of female nobility which adorn *La Belle Assemblée*; and for simplicity and grace, inferior to none of the number.

ARTISTS' AND AMATEURS' CONVERSAZIONE.

ON Tuesday last there was another meeting at Freemasons' Tavern, but we are prevented from going into particulars.

CITY OF LONDON ARTISTS' AND AMATEURS' CONVERSAZIONE.

WE learn with pleasure that this Society,—a notice of which has already appeared in our columns, held its first, and a very gratifying meeting on Thursday week, at the house of Mr. Fred. Westley, in Stationers' Court, *pro tem.*, and that it has been hailed with much enthusiasm, and several of the most distinguished gentlemen in the city have voluntarily offered themselves as members. This is as it should be.

BIOGRAPHY.

JAMES CHRISTIE, ESQ.

IT is with sincere regret we announce to our readers the death of Mr. Christie. He expired in King Street, St. James's Square, on the 2d inst. after a long and painful illness, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

It is hardly possible to speak the truth of Mr. Christie without an appearance of exaggeration, which, by those who knew him not, may be attributed to want of judgment or deficiency of taste. His education, of which the foundation had been laid deep at Eton, had ripened by study into scholarship accomplished and profound: of this his published Dissertations afford ample proof. With the polished manners and mental refinements of a gentleman, he brought to his profession a rare union of learning, science, and taste,—habits of the most perfect order, and principles of the most unbending integrity. But it is the highest praise of Mr. Christie, that in his religious life he adorned the purest doctrine by the holiest practice. A more single-hearted Christian, under every religious obligation, in every moral and social duty, never lived. Had his talents been of a more obtrusive kind, he had filled a larger space in the public eye; but on those who knew and loved him well, his unassuming merit, his great mental superiority, felt in the instruction he imparted and his sincere piety, have made an impression never to be effaced; and his death has occasioned a void, for which the rich legacy of his high and virtuous example can at present but feebly compensate.

Mr. Christie was a member of the Society of Dilettanti, a Registrar of the Literary Fund, and, we believe, belonged to other literary institutions.

DRAMA.

DRURY LANE.

MR. KEAN, after having gulled the English public into a belief that he really had taken his final farewell of the London stage, and coolly pocketed upwards of £1000, obtained from it under that pretence, as coolly re-appears, the very next season, without prologue or apology; and the said English public receive him as if nothing of the sort had occurred. Amen. The public is contented to be so gulled, and we, as veracious chroniclers, have nothing to do but to state the mere facts of the case, leaving the comments to be made by those whom it may concern. We have no doubt, however, that his next last benefit will be more fully attended, if possible, than the very last. He played *Richard*, on Monday evening, in much the

same style as he played it last season. Mr. Young deserved, and obtained, marked approbation for his performance of Henry VI. The pit and galleries were crowded from the commencement: the boxes were but poorly attended. On Tuesday, a version of Scribe's *Fra Diavolo* was produced with indifferent success. Its cool reception may be attributed to two causes. The first, its being a faint echo of the *Brigand*, which has been so long popular upon the same boards, with its hero in the same hands: the second—that the musical portion of the audience, attracted by the announcement in the bills that the original music, by Auber, would be sung, arranged by Mr. Lee, was disappointed; two songs out of Mrs. Waylett's four being the entire composition of the latter gentleman; and Mr. Sinclair's and Mr. Harley's songs also were foreign to the opera. This practice will not make perfect now-a-days. Mrs. Waylett's new ballads were exceedingly pretty, and very sweetly sung by that lady; but they were not Auber's, and their merits were therefore disregarded. The original and famous song, "Diavolo! Diavolo!" the air of which forms also the finale to the opera, was so splendidly sung by Madame Vestris, that Mrs. Waylett's comparative failure in it might have been expected. The most effective things in the opera were, the distant bugle march and chorus of the carabineers in the second act, and the choruses, &c. of the peasantry at the *fête* of our Lady of Palms, in the last scene, though the latter had also to encounter a comparison with similar effects in *Masaniello* and the *Brigand*. Wallack acted famously throughout, particularly in the finale, which we thought novel and ingenious. Mr. Latham, Mr. Bedford, and Mr. Webster, deserve honourable mention for the care and spirit with which they executed very subordinate parts. The dress of the latter was admirably characteristic. Mrs. Orger and Mr. Harley did the most they could with their respective characters. Mr. Sinclair obtained the only encore of the evening; but it was given to his delightful voice; for the song was neither good nor in keeping with the situation. The honours of the adaptation are said to be divided between Messrs. Thackeray and Shannon; but which of the twain translated *Fra Diavolo* (Devil's Brother), does not appear to be decided.

COVENT GARDEN.

ON Wednesday, after *Fazio*, in which Miss Taylor performed *Aldabella*, for the second time, with great judgment and effect, having taken the part at a day's notice on the previous Monday, a new comic drama was produced, entitled *Married Lovers*. The plot turns upon the mystification and exposure of three married gallants, the *Duke of Orleans*, the *Marquis de Meneville*, and the English ambassador *Sir John Ascot*, by their respective ladies, who are assisted, unconsciously, by the blunders of a *Colonel O'Dillon*, an Irish officer in the French service, pleasantly acted by Mr. Power, to whose pen this amusing composition is attributed. Abbot, Bartley, and Warde, as the gallants, and Mrs. Chatterley, Miss Forde, and Miss Taylor, as the wives, were equally successful. Miss Taylor carried the audience by storm, and was encored in two very pretty ballads (by Barnett), which she gave with the distinctness, archness, and feeling, that render her vocal efforts so remarkably effective. The piece was given out for repetition by Mr. Bartley amidst universal plaudits. Apropos of the dresses, which we have seen criticised in the newspapers as absurd. We may, on the contrary,

remark it is a proof of the attention to costume which is always so observable at this theatre, that a portrait of the Duke of Orleans in existence represents that personage in a dress precisely similar to the singular one worn by Mr. Abbot: the others were also in the true style of the day; and the ladies looked like Charles the Second's beauties reanimated. The effect altogether was very picturesque.

The *Romance of a Day*, from the prolific and ever-popular pen of Mr. Planché, was produced at this theatre on Thursday; and, having been received with all due enthusiasm, is, to the satisfaction of the author, and the gratification of the audience, to be repeated this evening. A romantic count having formed the determination to "settle down for life" with a pastoral petticoat, and, for the purpose of selection, having rang the changes upon all the village belles, arrives at the sober resolve of putting up with his lady cousin. An opportunity is here afforded for some humorous display of the sex's sincere attachment to a coronet, and of this the author has amusingly availed himself. Keeley, as a lover, is altogether irresistible; and his misery, upon finding out that his affections are misplaced and his hopes blighted, renders the scene one of the happiest we ever witnessed. Miss Taylor has but little, too little, to do; but her acting reminds us forcibly of Madame Vestris. On the *début* of this lady, we prophesied that she would rise to the head of her profession, and she is now rapidly doing so, in spite of a rather unfavourable opinion impressed upon the town by some of its critical guides, upon merely witnessing her *début* in a character so melo-dramatic as to afford no criterion for an estimate of her talents. As *Paul Richter*, she sings a song, "Karoline," with exquisite tact and sweetness. A chorus gave the fullest effect to "My fatherland," in the peculiar style of the Tyrolese, and was demanded thrice. The whole operatic strength, with the exception of Miss Inverarity, is brought forward; and we do not doubt but that the *Romance of a Day* will be prolonged to that of a season. Wilson was suffering from a cold, which detracted from his powers; but he acted admirably. The music altogether is worthy of Bishop.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

OUR readers may remember noticing a case in the police reports sometime back, of a young man being taken into custody on the charge of having stolen a watch, advertised as lost, and the fact turning out that it was his own watch, which having been subsequently found, he had offered to pawn, forgetful of the bills issued by his own order, and distributed amongst the pawnbrokers. This whimsical occurrence Mr. Charles Dance has turned to most pleasant account in a one-act farce, produced on Monday last at this thriving little theatre, under the title of *Misapprehension*. It is in the style of our old favourite "John Street, Adelphi;" full of smart things and droll situations; and was exceedingly well acted by Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Vining, Miss Pincot, and Miss Stuart. The winding up of the piece is particularly novel and happy, and deserved the double round of applause it received, on the double ground of being capitally written and admirably spoken.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.

WE visited the "private view," if we may so call it, of this theatre, on Tuesday. Mr. Macfarren has used every possible preparatory device and decoration to render this little theatre

attractive since its re-christening. After relinquishing the plebeian designation of "the Tottenham," we trust it will participate in the popularity of its namesake.

FRENCH THEATRES.

THE fecundity of the French theatres is extraordinary. The *Revue Encyclopédique* states, that in the course of the year 1830, there were brought out in the various theatres of Paris (not including the Italian Opera, the German Opera, M. Comte's, and other minor theatres), 169 new pieces; viz. 7 tragedies, 13 dramas, 31 comedies, 16 operas, 28 melo-dramas, 72 vaudevilles, and 2 pantomimes. They were thus distributed:—At the Académie Royale de Musique, 3, (2 operas and 1 ballet); at the Théâtre-Français, 12, (4 tragedies, 6 dramas, 2 comedies); at the Opéra-Comique, 9 (operas); at the Odéon, 24, (3 tragedies, 6 dramas, 14 comedies, and 1 vaudeville); at the Gymnase, 10, (9 vaudevilles and 1 drama); at the Vaudeville, 21, (20 vaudevilles and 1 *parodie sans couplets*); at the Variétés, 24 (vaudevilles); at the Nouveautés, 16, (9 vaudevilles, 5 operas, 1 comedy, and 1 pantomime); at the Gaité, 14, (5 melo-dramas, 5 comedies, and 4 vaudevilles); at the Ambigu-Comique, 18, (10 melo-dramas, 5 comedies, and 3 vaudevilles); at the Porte-Saint-Martin, 9, (4 melo-dramas, 4 comedies, and 1 vaudeville); and at the Cirque-Olympique, 9 (melo-dramas). 114 authors, and 9 composers, among them furnished this mass of works. The most fertile of the authors were, as usual, Messrs. Scribe and Melesville, who produced, the one 13 pieces, the other 11. The most successful of these dramatic compositions were—Hernani, by M. Victor Hugo; Stockholm et Fontainebleau, by M. Alexandre Dumas; *Fra Diavolo*, by Messrs. Scribe and Auber; *La Mère et la Fille*, by Messrs. Mazères and Empis; *Philippe*, by M. Scribe; *Le Couvent de Tonington*, by M. Victor Ducange; and *Napoleon at Schœnbrunn and Saint-Hélène*, by Messrs. Dupeuty and Regnier.

LITERARY, OR RATHER THEATRICAL, CHIT-CHAT.

THE cause of Westmacott v. Kemble is set down for the 10th instant, to come on in the Court of King's Bench.—The appeal in the great Covent Garden cause, Harris v. Kemble and others, is expected to be heard in the House of Lords on the 18th instant.—Colman is far advanced in the third volume of his *Random Records*; and the father and founder of broad modern comedy, Frederick Reynolds (whose original play of the *Dramatist* so long preceded those of Morton, Colman, &c.), is about to publish a dramatic work on an entirely novel plan. It will be embellished with numerous highly finished wood-cut engravings, and the story is partly founded, we understand, on the eventful life of that great play-wright and orator, R. B. Sheridan.

VARIETIES.

Important Researches on the Grasses.—M. Raspail, an industrious observer, has been effecting, by his physiological researches, considerable improvements in our knowledge of grasses. The *Festuca elatior* is only another form for the *lolium perenne*; and the *Festuca loliae* appears to be the passage by which this metamorphosis is effected. The distinctions of the species of *lolium* are only founded upon incomplete observations; and if we wished to

maintain such species as *liolum tenue*, *multiflorum*, *ramosum*, &c., it would not be more absurd to create a hundred other species. The *liolum temulentum* is only a new modification of the same type.

Ornithology.—From the letter of an esteemed correspondent, announcing a work on the ornithology of the great Himala range of mountains, the north-eastern boundary of our Indian empire—we learn that its principal features will be the brilliancy of plumage in the gallinaceous tribes, the power and size of the accipitres, and the almost infinite variety of the pies. "Amongst the former," he adds, "will be found several pheasants of a very extraordinary kind; and amongst the *pica*, several new jays of great beauty. The eagles are remarkable for their strength and size; in Heber's Journal an account is given of one which measured thirteen feet between the tips of the wings; and the talons of the bird were eight inches long. We have seen a cock bustard from the Himala, which, when erect, stood five feet one in his stockings."

The Death of Richelieu.—"He died like the hero of the Stoics, though clad in the trappings of a prince of the church. Most of those present were edited by his firmness; but one bishop, calling to mind the life, the arrogance, and the crimes of the minister, observed, that 'the confidence of the dying Richelieu filled him with terror.'"—*Croze's History of France.*

Travellers' Tastes.—"It is singular how tradition, which is sometimes a sure guide to truth, is, in other cases, prone to mislead us. In the celebrated field of battle at Killiecrankie, the traveller is struck with one of those rugged pillars of rough stone, which indicate the scenes of ancient conflict. A friend of the author, well acquainted with the circumstances of the battle, was standing near this large stone, and looking on the scene around, when a Highland shepherd hurried down from the hill to offer his services as a cicero, and proceeded to inform him, that Dundee was slain at that stone, which was raised to his memory. 'Fie, Donald,' answered my friend, 'how can you tell such a story to a stranger? I am sure you know well enough that Dundee was killed at a considerable distance from this place, near the house of Falsclach, and that this stone was here long before the battle, in 1688.' 'Oich! oich!' said Donald, no way abashed, 'and your honour's in the right, and I see you ken a' about it. And he wasna killed on the spot neither, but lived till the next morning; but a' the Saxon gentlemen like best to hear he was killed at the great stane.'"—*Note to the Abbot.*

Latest Statistical Account of Prussia.—The new edition of Dr. Voigtel's *Versuch einer Statistik des Preussischen Staats*, composed from the most authentic documents, both printed and unprinted, and with the co-operation of a great officer of state, is held up in the foreign journals, especially the *Leipzig Litteratur Zeitung*, as a work of the highest merit, indispensable to every German writer on statistical subjects. By an excellent plan and logical method, the professor has been enabled to compress in one octavo volume an abundance of the most interesting state subjects. A few extracts may not prove unacceptable under the present aspect of foreign affairs. The area of the Prussian dominions Professor Voigtel states to be 5040,⁷³ German square miles, exclusively of Neufchatel and Valengin with 14 square miles.

* One German mile makes about 4.6 English miles, since 15 of the former and 69 of the latter are reckoned to an equatorial degree; so that rather more than 21 English square miles are equal to 1 German square mile.

The whole of the population, without Neufchatel, amounts to 12,726,110, of which, according to the difference of religion, 7,732,664 are of the Lutheran and reformed church, 4,816,813 Catholics, 15,655 Mennonites, and 160,978 Jews. Of the nine great cities, Berlin is rated to contain 236,830 inhabitants. The whole stock of cattle amounted in 1828 to 4,377,959 cows and oxen, 12,611,537 sheep, 198,740 goats, 1,667,219 pigs, &c. Of tobacco there were worked up in the year 1827, 269,239 hundred weight (*centner*), part of which (173,045 cwt.) consisted in leaves of home cultivation. The number of paper-mills, though by no means sufficient for the inland consumption, was, in 1827, 392. The *états*, or expenses of the six universities, in the year 1829 were—for Berlin, 37,692 thaler* (without calculating 36,934 thaler for the scientific institutions of that capital); Bonn, 98,876; Breslau, 70,144; Halle, 68,598; Königsberg 60,095; and for Greifswalde 55,486. Of learned or classical schools there are in East Prussia 3, in West Prussia 6, in the province of Brandenburg 18, in Pomerania 6, in Silesia 21, in Posen 3, in Prussian Saxony 22, in Westphalia 19, in Jülich-Cleve-Berg 12, and on the Lower Rhine 17. The chapters on the finances and the army belong to the most important. The expenditure of the state in 1829 amounted to 50,796,000 thaler, of which 22,165,000 were alone applied to the *militärverwaltung* (administration of the army). The army is divided—1. into the *heer*, or standing army of the line, with 122,000 men; 2. the *landwehr*, with 228,000 men; and, 3. the *landsturm*, with 180,000 men; making altogether 530,000 warriors. What is said on the relation of Prussia to the other European states, will also not fail to engage the reader's attention. The works and papers from which the author derived his information are all specified; but the principal value of the book is justly placed on the official documents furnished him by officers of state.

Fossil Plants.—Mr. Witham has demonstrated, by his ingenious plan of cutting transverse sections of fossil plants, that M. A. Brogniart is deceived when he imagines that there are only vascular cryptogamic plants in the coal formation.

Rapidity of Rivers.—By a number of experiments made on the Neva, it appears that the action of the wind on the surface of a great mass of running water, besides the waves on the top, which become insensible at a small depth, produces a much greater change than had been supposed in the rapidity of the sub-currents.

English Botanists abroad.—It is pleasing to hear our countrymen spoken well of abroad. A modern scientific traveller affords the following specimen. Among cryptogamists, the first question asked of me usually was, "Est-ce que vous connaissez Monsieur Greville à Edimbourg?" for this exceedingly accurate botanist stands deservedly at the head of his department. We spoke of Dr. Hooker. "Oui, je le connais bien, mais je ne l'ai jamais vu!" and Hornemann pointed out to me upon his shelves Hooker's *Flora Scotica*, his *Exotic Flora*, and *Jungermannia*; and with these Delwyn's *Conferve*, and Sir J. E. Smith's works. Then, as we went along the garden, he was careful to point out to me a red patentilla from Nipal (*Patentilla formosa*), which he received from Glasgow. "M. Greville," said Hornemann, "vous l'avez vu—il est homme grand, n'est-ce pas?" "Yes, he is above the middle size."

* The Prussian thaler (dollar) is within a trifle of three shillings in English money.

"Ah! je l'ai figuré à moi-même—un homme très grand." "How so? Is it that you thought him a great botanist?" "Peut-être: il est grand botaniste sans doute, surtout dans les cryptogamiques; dans les cryptogamiques il est à-peu-près parfait." "And Dr. Hooker?" "Je l'imagine être petit." "But he is a tall man." "Ah! le voilà comment on se trompe de ceux qu'ils n'ont jamais vu!" "And how came you to suppose Dr. Hooker a little man?" "Je ne sais pas." "But he is an eminent botanist." "Ah, oui, oui, il est un de vos meilleurs botanistes; mais il ne faut pas être homme grand pour devenir grand homme." "Still, don't you think the chances are in favour of a little man; for the same amount of genius will be more concentrated when it has less space to be diffused over; and don't you see that most clever men are little?" "Oui, oui, c'est une bonne idée; et quel malheur ne serait-il pas pour nous trois, s'il était nécessaire d'être homme grand pour avoir de génie!"

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

[Literary Gazette Weekly Advertisement, No. VI. Feb. 5.]

Mr. Carne, so advantageously known to the public as an author, has nearly ready, the Lives of celebrated Missionaries; likely, we believe, to form a portion (and a very fitting portion) of the Family Library—Oxford, a Poem, with Notes, by R. Montgomery. Twelve illustrations of the same by Skelton.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Lardner's Cabinet Library, Vol. II. (Life and Reign of George IV., Vol. I.), fcp. 4s. bds.—Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia, Vol. XV. (Croze's History of France, Vol. II.), fcp. 6s. bds.—Bishop Van Mildert's Sermons, 2 vols. 8vo. 24s. bds.—Hughes's Divines, Vol. IX., 8vo. 7s. 6d. bds.—Valpy's Family Classical Library, No. XIV., 18mo. 4s. 6d. bds.—Manning's Stories from the History of Italy, 12mo. 7s. 6d. hf. bd.—National Library, No. VI. (Clegg's History of the Bible, Vol. II.), 18mo. 6s. bds.—Rose's Analytical Chemistry, 8vo. 16s. bds.—Hinds on Inspiration of Scripture, 8vo. 6s. bds.—Riddles' Songs of the Ark, fcp. 7s. 6d. bds.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1831.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday .. 27	From 20. to 37.	29.92 — 29.36
Friday 28	— 25. — 33.	29.61 Stationary
Saturday .. 29	— 27. — 35.	29.81 Stationary
Sunday 30	— 17. — 33.	29.76 — 29.79
Monday 31	— 17. — 34.	29.68 — 29.52
February.		
Tuesday ... 1	— 23. — 35.	29.16 — 29.06
Wednesday 2	— 25. — 39.	29.13 — 29.16

Wind variable, S.W. prevailing. Except the 23rd and 30th, generally cloudy; the average depth of the fall of snow during the night of the 31st ult. and the 1st inst. is 8 inches. Snow and rain fell during the 2d till about 5 p.m., when it became clear, and again froze very sharply, the thermometer having fallen during the night to 10°, being 22° below the freezing point. The rapid thaw which is now (Thursday, 4 p.m.) going on, together with the accompanying rain, will, it is feared, be the cause of very great floods. Rain fallen, 8 of an inch.

CHARLES H. ADAMS.

Latitude..... 51° 37' 39" N.
Longitude.... 0 3 51 W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Reviews of several Medical Works, some time intended for insertion, shall appear next week.

It will be observed by our readers that, in the fever of politics, very few Literary Works of standard value have, as yet, been published this season. We have paid due attention to those which have issued from the press; and the lack of more has enabled us (as in this No.) to devote a larger space to other departments of our miscellany.

We got the anecdote of Professor Ross's death from a scientific publication. Our correspondent on this subject inquires if there was any disease of the stomach, which we cannot tell; and adds, that the large speckled garden spider (*Aranea diadema*, Lin.) is given successfully in cases of ague.

G. J. R. will find a note at our Office.

* It is necessary that it should be understood, that the three personages here alluded to are Professor Zeile, Professor Hornemann, and the "scientific traveller," a very nice little man, with an ample forehead, partly shaded by hair which naturally arranges itself in straight parallel lines. His features are slim, with the hectic flush of study and domestic care; but their beauty is enhanced by a constant smile, like a ripe plum ready to burst.

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Previous to the opening of the New Parliament, the **SPECTATOR** ventured to predict that the Session would be distinguished in a remarkable manner by the important results of its deliberations.

The country know how this has already been realised; and it looks forward with anxious interest to the labours of the remaining portion of the Session. The Spectator, as a watcher and expositor of events, will continue to bestow upon parliamentary subjects the same searching scrutiny as heretofore; and will narrate, with clearness and impartiality, the whole proceedings of both Houses, after its own peculiar method—a method which has been much approved, as communicating the greatest amount of accurate information at the least cost of time to the reader. The flattering success which has attended the recent exertions of the Spectator (its regular weekly sale having, since the commencement of the Session, increased by nearly 1,400 copies) justifies perseverance in the same course, and will stimulate to increased activity in every part of its comprehensive plan. The Proprietors pledge themselves that no pains or cost shall be spared to render the Spectator the first newspaper of the kind in this country.

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